

A little 6/10 from the first send one of that in 1/2 about 1/2 - I am short
 paper - it is hard to have this tea - I can buy a little in any place and put a
 dozen with the same - on the back - then I think tea I think and see how I like
 very nice to me - but I am
 here now - tea will be
 it is getting very hot
 not released yet
 the tea in - I have
 the bottle with

Camp 9th Mass. Battery
 Centerville Va. May 3rd 1863.

Miss Deborah Weston:

Young Seven
 a Bank
 Marching Order
 As direct
 good bye

Your kind letter of the 27th
 of last month - reached me
 on the 30th; I was greatly rejoiced in having
 the opportunity in reading a letter from you
 again - so pleased - so contented & happy -
 as if I had read the news of a Victory
 on to Richmond -; You see my kind friend
 that we have moved a little farther to the
 front - but it is not far enough for me -
 it is the front of the defence of Washington.
 I rather had march on, clear to the front of
 Joe Hooker - crossing the Rappahannock -
 attacking the Enemy, and give them no rest
 untill we had them beyond Richmond -
 - There we might rest a little spell -

I believe there is some great Movement going
on in this vicinity very soon; I should not be
surprised to see another engagement a Battle fought
in the Valley or near the Bull-Run again —
Gen. Stahl passed through here Friday Night with
2,000 Men of Cavalry in the direction of the Bull-Run
on a Reconnoissance — Gen. Abernethy our
Division Commandant arrived here a Week ago
from last Wednesday — He walks around here like
an old Farmer — I do not know how he is in
a Battle-field — I have not heard much about him
He is pretty old — — — Well my kind friend I
could inform you of some more of the time we spend
the last few Weeks at Liptons Hill — but that is in
the time past — so I better go over to the present
beginning, by the Journey from Fort Ramsey to this place
of Centreville; — it was on Sunday the 12th of April
as we received our marching Order to be ready on Monday
the 13th — We all were glad of that Order — and greatly pleased
I then wrote a letter to Maria in informing her of
this good news — and I would have written to you
too, if the time had permitted me — I Monday passed
and we did not get off, Well I thought Tuesday would be

the day then - but Tuesday passed away too, and had to go
to bed disappointed - by hearing the story that they had no
Transport ready to send us down to the Potomac - at last
Thursday Evening, we had the true order to fall in the
fifth morning, to leave - but we did not know, where we were
going - We rised at four o'clock a.m. The horses
were cleaned, fed & watered - we took our Breakfast with
Three days' rations in the knapacks, got everything ready, and
started at seven o'clock. - It was a pleasure to see
the Battery turned out - The Horses and men were
Lively in good spirit and gay - Everything was in a
fine - good and clean Condition - The Guns shining
like Gold - The Harness were clean black, and
oiled a few days ago - the Wheel running in oil
- So did we leave our old Fort joining our right
Section at Fort Buffaloe - sending the Stars & Stripes
with the New Flag to the right - and on we went by
a very pleasant morning, with sunshine to the front -

We arrived at Annapolis at nine o'clock
and lunched there - Stayed about a half an hour
reached Fairfax Courthouse at about noon - found
old we march through the Town which was pretty long
but we saw nothing but Soldiers and Negroes,

The houses were all occupied by Government use
I saw the old Court house built of stone - filled with
Grain and Hay - Windows could not be seen in the
houses - all were most in ruin - about one mile
out of the Town, Lt. Stipes and remained an hour
in taking our dinner - had talk with Mr. Hester
I saw the house where Gen. Staughton was taken -

Well we started again, and marched on toward Centreville
On this Road it looks like War Fair - of every Quarter
of a Mile was a Cavalry Man posted - and dead horses
were seen plenty - smelling very bad -

We arrived at Centreville at a little past three
or four - The Keastone Battery which was with
us at Camp Chase last Summer - met us here and were
very glad to see & meet us again - We then went
on the right of the Town on a hill to stay for the night
while we did not know yet where our Camp would be - so
we tied the Picket rope on the left of the Square wheel
from one Ciceroon to another to the right - for our
Horses to be tied on - Evening was near - taking our
Shelter tents - and pitched them for the night
where ever we found the best place - We were
on a plain between houses - which were burned down

P.S.

II

May 3, 63

Stone houses thrown in all directions - I
went with my tent on a green spot - and by aster
nishment the other morning I found that I had kept
on Rebel graves. I did not care for it anyhow.
The Park was now fixed in Battery terms
and still the Pieces packed with their full
intervals; the Caissons in the rear of them
are Picket-rope on the left of - for the Horses
of the left half Battery - and a Picket-
rope on the right of - for the Horses of the
right half Battery building a Park - ~~97~~
97 yards the front of the Encampment - in
front of the Houses are our tents pitched - Extending
from the right to the left - The Officers Tents
are in the rear of the Park facing to it - Every
day this Park got to be swept from the Capt's
tents clear to the front - so it is clean all
the time and looks as nice as a Parlor, the
grass in the Carpet - and indeed Mrs Weston
would be pleased to see our Park - The Pieces in the Center
on the sides standing the Houses all in line, with the

Nose-back on their neck at Feed time; seeing the Cents
all eight yards in front of them in one line - The Men
engaged clearing them and carry hay to them - I wish
the could see all their kind of Work and see me
flying around among them - I have no business
with the Horses, but I take Comfort to have the chance
to ride one or be with them - - - - -

This Centerville is not such a Town at present
as it was before the War broke out - There are only
a few Houses left - which are most in the Government
use - the Church is a Stone-house - Some houses
standing, only half some are fixed up again -
a little and used for Settlers - But the Rail
is beautiful going on a hill - oh I tell you
it is a splendid view here looking over to
the Bull-Ram Mountains - then to the Blue Ridge
it is a beautiful sight - blue like the blue
hills you see at Brimshill from the top of your
house - There are five Regts of Infantry here the
Keystone Battery and our - a Brigade Band which
furnish us with excellent music - They play in
the Morning and Evening at the Genl. Quarter - such
times what makes my heart jump sometimes //

I am writing this letter to day in doing my duty I
began pretty early at five o'clock this morning - attending
all the Roll-Call and do Vergence's duty for our Sergt-
Jes Hunt is going off as afraid of his - it is now
twelve o'clock now - We just got back again from our
Sunday Morning inspection - I felt quite proud to
ride to the front to report to the Captain what was
needed etc Everything is all right - a glorious
report has come here in Camp - that is that Joe
Hooker is between the Rebel Lee and Richmond
by jolly that's good - I hope and believe we
are getting along nicely this Summer - to put them
down - Well I shall not say too much this time, I
hope for the best and that is to have this War
Settle as soon as possible, and so to live in Peace
for many years to come in Freedom & Liberty to all
the Population - It is now Dinner time I got
just my dipper filled with Vegetable Soup - will leave
off writing in taking my Dinner - I suppose Mr. Norton
is now in the Kitchen too preparing your Dinner with
Margaret - What is it have you got any Reading to
do? I wish I was with you on the table for?
~~Remember~~ remember those nice Pie & Jamming

He moved to here on Sunday - prepared by Mrs. Weston -
Now I shall eat my dinner - I wish
you a good appetite to yours -

I am through with my dinner and
begin to write again - I thank you very much of the good animal of
Almira & have you send me) and feel greatly pleased that Anna is
going to have the nice spring milk - what will do for good - The new
Paper which you have send me the week in L. Fort, Texas - I all have
them received and do thank you for them very much - I also receive
with your letter here the Journal & Harper's Weekly - a new paper is
here a good deal more worth - than around Washington - According
to the Revolver I am very glad that you and Mrs. Weston have
taken an interest - I am now strong in hope that I shall have
one - I know Almira was not accustomed to fulfill
any thought in this Revolver - but it was the beginning
of it - it had to be worked their way - My kind true friend
it is not value I think of - but it is a weapon of war I think and
feel as strong as fire-children with it - and without it I can
be only one - Now can I leave it to you hoping that I shall
have it soon in doing the duty with it in honor of those I
received from - Would you may feel to send such a weapon
to a friend who knows how to use it when he get the chance - Now
when that weapon is pointed to the Rebel in working for your
freedom for this I shall value it - My very best regard to Mrs. Weston
and to all - Yours with great respects - Augustus Rose

1 Gunner Augustus Rose
9th Mass. Battery Artillery
Artillery Division - Centerville Va.
Washington D. C.

Ms. A. 9. 2. 31. 56